

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

December 2010 – Week 5

Air Date: December 26 – January 1 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: THE ANNIHILATOR

NEW YEARS EVE 1884 AND THE ANNIHILATOR STRIKES.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

DECEMBER 31, 1884. AUSTIN. ON PECAN STREET, A YOUNG BLACK SERVANT GIRL NAMED MOLLIE SMITH SETTLES IN FOR THE NIGHT WITH HER LOVER, WALT.

ABOUT FOUR IN THE MORNING, WALT AWAKES IN AGONY, HIS FACE SLASHED, THE ROOM IS SPATTERED IN BLOOD. A BLOODY AXE LAYS NEARBY. MOLLIE IS GONE.

SHE IS FOUND THE NEXT MORNING, LYING IN THE SNOW BY THE outhouse – HER HEAD SMASHED OPEN.

MOLLIE IS THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE NATION’S FIRST SERIAL KILLER, DUBBED THE SERVANT GIRL ANNIHILATOR. OVER THE NEXT YEAR, THERE WILL BE SEVEN MORE MURDERS.

ARRESTS ARE MADE, BUT THE CASE IS NEVER SOLVED. SOME SUGGEST THE MURDERER STRUCK AGAIN IN LONDON FOUR YEARS LATER AS JACK THE RIPPER.

AUSTIN’S MOONLIGHT TOWERS WERE BUILT IN RESPONSE TO THE KILLINGS.

THE ANNIHILATOR STRUCK 126 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

“Servant Girl Annihilator” Katherine Ramsland TruTV Crime Library website, accessed 12/1/09

http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/serial_killers/history/servant_girl/index.html

“Capital Murder” Skip Hollandsworth, Texas Monthly July 2000

<http://www.texasmonthly.com/mag/issues/2000-07-01/feature5.php>

Austin Ghost Tours website, accessed 12/01/09

<http://www.austinghosttours.com/>

Austin’s Moonlight Towers, Texas Escapes website accessed 12/1/09

<http://www.texasescapes.com/AustinTexas/Moonlight-Towers-Austin-Texas.htm>

“The Servant Girl Annihilator” by Clayton Stapleton, What Was Then website accessed 12/01/09

<http://penningtongenealogy.com/ripper.htm>

“Austin’s Guy Town” History House website accessed 12/1/09

http://www.historyhouse.com/in_history/guy_town/

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